

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 112608
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:EABINGTON, JR.

APPROVED BY NEA:EABINGTON, JR.

S/S-O:AOTTO

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O 170122Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 112608

EXDIS - FOR S/S

FOL RPT TEL AVIV 3447 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW 16 MAY 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3447

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, IS, UR

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF PRISONERS
OF ZION

1. MOSHE RAVIV OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED THIS AFTER-
NOON TO RELAY A REQUEST WHICH HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER
ALLON HAD ASKED BE PASSED DIRECTLY TO YOU.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF IN YOUR CON-
VERSATION THIS WEEK WITH GROMYKO YOU COULD RAISE TWO
SPECIAL CASES OF PRISONERS OF ZION WHO HAVE BEEN IM-

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PRISONED IN THE USSR. HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE IS
A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN HERE AS TO THE FATE OF THE TWO
MEN INVOLVED AND A DEMONSTRATION OF U.S. INTEREST AT A
HIGH LEVEL MAY BE HELPFUL. THE CASES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) IOSIF BEGUN, AN ENGINEER BORN IN 1937 WITH A
PHD IN RADIO AND ELECTRONICS. BEGUN RESIDED AT 1414
MELNIKOVA STREET IN MOSCOW. HE SUBMITTED A REQUEST TO

EMIGRATE IN 1971 WHICH WAS REFUSED. HE WAS THROWN OUT OF HIS JOB AND UNABLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER WORK IN HIS PROFESSION. A NOTATION WAS MADE IN HIS LABOR CERTIFICATE THAT HE HAD BEEN FIRED BECAUSE HE HAD APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION. BEGUN WAS IMPRISONED ON MARCH 3, 1977 AS A "PARASITE." HIS TRIAL WAS ORIGINALLY FIXED FOR MAY 6 BUT BECAUSE OF HIS STATE OF HEALTH, PARTIALLY CAUSED BY A HUNGER STRIKE, IT HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL MAY 26.

(B) ANATOLI SHIRANSKY, MATHEMATICIAN, BORN IN 1948 WITH A SPECIALTY IN COMPUTERS AND CYBERNETICS. HE IS A RESIDENT OF THE VILLAGE OF ISTRA NEAR MOSCOW. HIS WIFE IS IN ISRAEL, HAVING LEFT THE DAY AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE. SHIRANSKY SUBMITTED A REQUEST TO EMIGRATE IN APRIL 1973 BUT THIS WAS REFUSED. HE WAS IMPRISONED ON MARCH 13, 1977, ACCUSED OF SPYING AND OF LIAISON WITH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SAKHAROV COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT THAT LAST WEEK A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE SEARCHED AND INTERROGATED IN REGARD TO BOTH BEGUN AND SHIRANSKY.

3. I ASSURED RAVIV THAT I WOULD PASS THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY TO YOU.

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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